

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- approximately equal to diameters of the openings 13 in the main pipette tip holder. Thus, when a pipette tip is inserted by its lower tip end 15 through the aperture 22 in the transfer plate 20, the lower edges of the ribs 17 on the tip mounting sleeve define an interrupted shoulder 25 by which the tip is supported on the flexible lips 23. This arrangement is shown in detail in Figs. 2a, 4 and 5. As best shown in Figs. 2a and 5-8, the flexible lips 23 are substantially thinner than the flat main body portion 21 of the transfer plate 20. More particularly, the lips have a thickness less than half the thickness of the main body portion. The pipette tips 11 shown in the drawings have six circumferentially spaced and axially extending ribs 17 such that, regardless of the rotational orientation of a tip 11, there will always be a rib shoulder 25 in contact with and supported by a flexible lip 23. --